

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

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O 111644Z SEP 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3954

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS - IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS & AEAGC-OCO IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS IMMEDIATE

USELMLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, GE

SUBJECT: APPREHENSION OF US SOLDIER AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

REF: BERLIN 1568

1. WE ARE BEGINNING TO RECEIVE INQUIRIES
CONCERNING THIS CASE FROM BOTH GERMAN AND AMERICAN
MEDIA, AND ARE RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ALONG FOLLOWING
LINES:

Q: WHAT HAPPENED AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE LAST NIGHT?

A: A MEMBER OF THE US FORCES WAS ILLEGALLY DETAINED BY
EAST BERLIN BORDER GUARDS.

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Q: WHY WAS HE DETAINED?

A: NO SPECIFIC REASON WAS GIVEN.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT A GERMAN WOMAN WAS TAKEN FROM HIS CAR?

A: WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME. WE ARE INVESTIGATING IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE THE FACTS.

Q: WHERE IS THE MAN NOW?

A: HE IS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN EAST BERLIN.

Q: WHAT IS BEING DONE TO GET HIM BACK?

A: WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

Q: HOW LONG WILL HE BE DETAINED?

A: WE CANNOT ANSWER THAT AT THIS TIME.

Q: WHY IS HE BEING DETAINED?

A: WE DO NOT KNOW.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE US MILITARY AUTHORITIES DEALT WITH THE EAST GERMANS IN THIS MATTER?

A: SOVIET OFFICIALS WERE REQUESTED THROUGH THE EAST GERMANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD PROCEDURES.

Q: WHERE IS THE AMERICAN'S CAR NOW?

A: AS FAR AS WE KNOW, IT IS STILL BEING HELD IN THE CHECKPOINT AREA.

Q: EAST BERLIN SIDE OR THE WEST?

A: EAST.
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Q: DID SOVIET OFFICIALS COME AS REQUESTED?

A: YES.

Q: WHAT REASONS DID THEY GIVE FOR APPREHENDING THE AMERICAN?

A: THEY HAVE GIVEN US NO SPECIFIC REASON. WE ARE PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THIS AS A PART OF OUR INVESTIGATION.

1: WHAT IS THE IDENTITY OF THE DETAINED MAN?

A: SP4 WILLIAM S. MEDLEY.

Q: WHAT IS HIS HOMETOWN?

A: KETTERING OHIO

Q: AGE?

A: 24

Q: DOES THIS CASE HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH ASSISTING EAST GERMANS TO ESCAPE TO THE WEST?

A: WE DO NOT KNOW.

Q: HOW LONG WAS MEDLEY DETAINED BY THE EAST GERMANS?

A: APPROXIMATELY 3 HOURS.

Q: FROM THE TIME OF HIS APPREHENSION BY THE EAST GERMANS, HOW LONG BEFORE THE SOVIETS APPEARED?

A: APPROXIMATELY 3 HOURS.

Q: DID US AUTHORITIES SPEAK WITH MEDLEY DURING THIS TIME?

A: NO.
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Q: WAS ANY ATTEMPT MADE TO DO SO?

A: YEST, BUT EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES PREVENTED CONTACT.

Q: DID THEY PREVENT US PHYSICALLY?

A: YES

Q: HOW?

A: BY LOWERING ALL POLE BARRIERS AND LATER BY SURROUNDING THE VEHICLE.

2. USCOB CONCURS.SELIGMANN

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